

Tools Required To Complete Your OLC Kit

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Soldering Iron



Hakko 508. 40-watts**

This is my favorite soldering iron, at nearly any price. It comes with:

Thin tip

Replacement tip

Roll of solder wick (a.k.a. solder braid)

Small stand

The price? \$12.99 at Fry's in U.S.A.

I think this one is a great deal, but other soldering irons will work. You might do better with a lower wattage (20-25 watt) iron, but a thin tip is almost necessary. The point is, you probably don't need to spend over \$20 on an iron.

** 40 watts may be too high for some people. I'm accustomed to using one and I'm quick when touching components. If you use a high-wattage iron, be sure to do the same!

Solder Sucker / Solder Wick (a.k.a. Solder Braid)



These two tools perform the same task: solder removal. You may wish to modify your kit in the future, or maybe you soldered a component in the wrong spot. Either of these will do the job.

The one on the left is a “solder sucker”. It literally sucks up solder (after you have heated it to liquid form). This tool is reusable.

The one on the right is “solder wick” or “solder braid”. It looks like braided copper and it functions like a wick. You place the end of the wick over your solder joint and press your hot soldering iron down on top of that. When the solder becomes liquid, the wick/braid absorbs it. The portion of the wick/braid you used is not reusable – however, there is typically a meter or so in a roll.

Digital Multimeter (a.k.a. DMM)



This is an example of an inexpensive one that will get the job done. This one is usually \$9 - \$10 and runs on a standard 9v battery.

You will need one of these to measure voltage when biasing the transistors in most builds.

I've never bought anything from this company, but here's a place to look at them:
<http://www.multimeterwarehouse.com/digitalmultimeter.htm>

Wire / Component Lead Cutter



This is the 4.5" inch cutter I bought for \$5 from Radio Shack. I use it to cut wire, strip wire, and cut component leads.